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"I very much regret these mistakes which have occasioned so much annoyance, and I have given stringent instructions to the various officers concerned to prevent by all means any future errors of the same kind.

"I have also communicated with the Director of the Posts at Hamburgh to the same effect.—I am, Sir, your obedient, humble Servant,

"J. Tilley,
"Assistant-Secretary.

"*Professor Airy,*
"*Royal Observatory, Greenwich.*"

Discovery of a New Comet (Comet III. 1854.)

(Letter from Professor Argelander to the Astronomer Royal.)

"On the 4th of June Herr Klinkerfues, in Göttingen, discovered a new comet. As I have just learned that the discoverer has not himself made this appearance known to you, I do myself the honour of informing you; and I add at the same time the positions obtained by the discoverer himself, as well as the only ones which the weather has until now allowed us to make. The comet is very bright, and could be seen very well in the finder the day before yesterday, very near to the horizon, notwithstanding the light of the full moon. It has a remarkable thickening near the middle, but neither a defined nucleus nor a tail.

"The places are derived only from rough calculation:—

Date.			R.A.	Decl.
	h m s		h m s	° ′ ″
June 4	14 0 0	Göttingen	2 1 15	+32 15 —
5	13 37 27	—	2 5 23·25	+33 40 18·6
	13 45 19	—	2 5 24·22	+33 40 43·9
			° ′	° ′ ″
11	12 2 48·0	Bonn	40 47·79	+43 56 44·7
	12 33 30·4	—	40 58·07	+43 59 13·0

Bonn, June 13, 1854.

The following elements of this comet have been calculated from the Göttingen Observations of June 5, and the Berlin Observations of June 9 and 17, by M. Klinkerfues:—

T	June 22·12174	
	° ′ ″	
π	272 58 5·5	Equinox, 1854·0
☊	347 48 44·9	
i	71 8 21·0	
Log *q*	9·811244	

Motion retrograde.

These elements have some resemblance to those of the comets of 961 and 1558.

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Observations of Comet III. 1854, at Mr. Bishop's Observatory, Regent's Park.

June 28, at $11^h\ 36^m\ 49^s$ G.M.T.; R.A. 110° 42′ 26″; Decl. + 59° 42′ 58″.

The following calculated places of the comet have been furnished by Mr. Hind:—

0^h Gr. M.T.	α	δ	Δ	r
	° ′	° ′		
July 16	150 52	+39 0	1·406	0·818
26	157 36	29 31	1·668	0·951
Aug. 5	161 39	22 22	1·922	1·097
15	164 17	+16 8	2·330	1·247

An Account of the Observatory at Hartwell House.

By John Lee, Esq., LL.D., F.R.S., &c.

"In presenting an account of my observatory to the Astronomical Society, it is not my intention to enter into any lengthened detail, as both the building itself and the principal instruments which it contains are minutely described by my excellent friend Admiral Smyth in the *Ædes Hartwellianæ* and in the *Celestial Cycle*. The former work, which was printed for private circulation only, contains an account of my first small observatory with its fixed and portable instruments. Here the tangible advantages of practical astronomy followed the physical theory, which formed a prominent part of my college reading; and the pleasures I have thus experienced, of all others perhaps the purest we are permitted to enjoy, have induced me to associate with myself as astronomical fellow-labourers my friends and neighbours at Aylesbury, Hartwell, and Stone. The three observatories which have recently been erected in these localities have already been described at the meetings of this Society; and to complete the cycle, I wish to offer the following short description of my own.

"My second and larger observatory adjoining the south-east angle of Hartwell House, consists of an ante-room, transit-room, and equatoreal tower, in the erection of which no expense was spared in order to insure the approbation of the most critical astronomer. Admiral Smyth, the Chairman of our synod, availed himself of the advice and labours of the elder Tully, Mr. Dollond, Mr. Vulliamy, Mr. C. May, and Mr. Thomas Jones, and, therefore, in the construction of both the building and the instruments he was determined to be satisfied with nothing short of the utmost attainable perfection. That the work of the practical optician and engineer was sufficiently successful, is evident from the meed of praise which it has received in the *Ædes Hartwellianæ*, as well as from the fact especially recorded by the Admiral himself, that he was generally enabled to give to his Hartwell measures of double stars *high weights*.

"The model now exhibited of the observatory, by our village carpenter, Mr. G. Carter, is on the scale of an inch to the foot, and

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